649

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR R
REVIEWED BY FSchmoke 7/2/85
EXT. DATE

MEMORANDUM June 30, 1981

TO: The Files

FROM: Gene Martin - H

SUBJECT: Senator Tower's meeting with Prince Bandar, June 26, 1981

Senator Tower's meeting with the Prince lasted about 75 minutes. Bandar evidently dominated the conversation, spending most of the time reviewing the SAG's overall needs for the AWACS, US relations with other Middle East countries and recent events in the Middle East. Tower never had a chance to talk specifically about the conditions of the sale.

Both Tower and Bandar agreed that the President needed to get personally involved in the AWACS issue. Bandar made the comment that the President has focussed on the budget process, with excellent result, and felt similar attention and effort on the AWACS would win the battle. Tower agreed and said he would urge the President to become involved. Bandar added that he felt we were in a stronger position on AWACS than we were with the F-15 package in 1978 when opponents had some 75 Congressional signatures against the sale. He believed the Administration is too timid on the AWACS.

With regard to timing, Tower indicated that a delay would be appropriate until later in the year and the complete framework of the sale was agreed upon. Bandar countered that he saw no reason for delay and expressed concern that a delay would push the issue into 1982 and the fall Congressional elections. Tower said this was unlikely as a delay would be only for a few months and the issue would be considered this calendar year.

The above is based upon a telephonic report by Tower's staffer, Jim Locher.

cc: H - Dick Fairbanks
H - Al Drishcler
NEA - Bob Pelletreau
PM - Arnie Kanter
T - Dick Aherne
S/P - Dennis Ross
C - Dan Haendel